
MARCH 18, 1806.

Read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole House, on Monday next.

A Bill,

To provide for the adjustment of titles of land in the territory of Michigan, and for other purposes.



1 Sec. 1. *BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That any
3 person or persons, and the legal representatives of any person or
4 persons, who, prior to the third day of November, in the year one
5 thousand seven hundred and sixty two, had obtained from the
6 government of France any grant to lands, lying within the said
7 territory, to which the Indian title had been extinguished, such
8 grantee, or some person to his use, having been and remained in
9 actual possession thereof, and the same not exceeding the quantity
10 of six hundred and forty acres, shall be confirmed in his or their
11 claim to such land, in the manner hereafter mentioned.

1 Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That any person or persons,
2 and the legal representatives of any person or persons, who, prior
3 to the thirtieth day of November, one thousand seven hundred and
4 eighty two, had obtained from the government of Great Britain
5 any grant to lands, lying within the said territory, to which the
6 Indian title had been extinguished, such grantee, or some person
7 to his use, having been and remained in actual possession thereof,
8 and the same not exceeding the quantity of six hundred and forty
9 acres, shall be confirmed in his or their claim to such land, in like
10 manner.

1 Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That any person or persons,
2 and the legal representatives of any person or persons, who, prior
3 to the said thirtieth day of November, one thousand seven hundred
4 and eighty two, had acquired a title to any lands in the said terri-
5 tory, to which the Indian title had been extinguished, which title,
6 though not legally complete, shall, in the opinion of the persons
7 hereafter mentioned for the adjustment of titles of land, be deemed
8 equitable and just; the said land having been, prior to the said day,
9 actually inhabited and cultivated by such person or persons, or for
10 his or their use, and not exceeding in quantity four hundred and
11 sixty acres, shall be confirmed in his or their claim to such land,
12 in the same manner as if the title had been complete: provided,
13 that no such incomplete title shall be confirmed where the person
14 alleged to have acquired it was, at the time of such acquisition,
15 under the age of twenty one years, unless such person was at such
16 time the head of a family.

1 Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That to every person, or to
 2 the legal representative or representatives of every person, who
 3 has behaved as a person attached to the principles of the constitu-
 4 tion of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and
 5 happiness of the same, and not owing or professing allegiance to
 6 any foreign power, and who, being either the head of a family, or
 7 of twenty-one years of age, did, prior to the first day of July,
 8 one thousand eight hundred and five, actually inhabit and cultivate
 9 a tract of land in the said territory, not claimed by virtue of the
 10 preceding sections of this act, the said tract of land, thus inha-
 11 bited and cultivated, the Indian title thereto having been first ex-
 12 tinguished by the government of the United States, shall be grant-
 13 ed: Provided, that not more than one tract shall be granted to any
 14 one person, and that the same shall not contain more than two hun-
 15 dred and twenty acres; and provided, that such grant shall not be
 16 made to any person who claims any other tract of land by virtue
 17 of the preceding sections.

1 Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the government of the
 2 territory of Michigan, that is to say, the governor and the judges
 3 thereof, or any three of them, or a majority of any three of them
 4 in case the office of the fourth be vacant, or he be absent from the
 5 seat of government, or unable to attend, shall hear, examine, de-
 6 termine and finally adjust all claims to land under the preceding
 7 sections of this act; and when it shall appear to them that the
 8 claimant is entitled to a tract of land under this act, they shall

9, cause the same to be surveyed, at the reasonable charge of the
10 claimant, and shall give a certificate, as soon as may be after the
11 thirty-first day of December, one thousand eight hundred and six,
12 describing the tract of land, and stating how the claimant has be-
13 come entitled thereto ; and upon producing such certificate to the
14 secretary of state, the president of the United States is hereby
15 authorized to grant a patent for the land to the party, his, her or
16 their heirs or assigns ; and all patents shall be countersigned by
17 the secretary of state, and recorded in his office.

1 Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That where a claim shall be
2 made to lands lying within the said territory, which, owing to its
3 exceeding the quantities prescribed in this act, or for any other
4 cause, shall not be allowed, the circumstances of the case, with
5 the opinion thereon of the persons disallowing the same, shall be
6 reported to the president of the United States, to be laid before
7 congress.

1 Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That no claim to land lying
2 within the said territory shall be barred which shall be presented
3 prior to the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and
4 seven.

1 Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That nothing in this act con-
2 tained shall be construed to authorize the disposal of any salt-
3 spring, but every salt-spring in the said territory, with as much
4 land contiguous thereto as shall be deemed necessary by the presi-
5 dent of the United States, shall be reserved to the special disposal

6 of the United States ; and any grant which may hereafter be made
 7 for a tract of land containing a salt-spring, which had been dis-
 8 covered previous to the acquisition thereof, and not specially dis-
 9 posing of the said salt-spring, shall be considered as fraudulent
 10 and null.

1 Sec. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That the government of the
 2 territory of Michigan as aforesaid, shall lay out a city or town, in-
 3 cluding the whole of the old town of Detroit, and the lands adja-
 4 cent, within the district of Detroit, excepting such part as the pre-
 5 sident of the United States shall direct to be reserved for the use
 6 of the military department, and shall hear, examine, determine and
 7 finally adjust all claims to lots therein, and give deeds for the same ;
 8 and to every person, or to the legal representative or representa-
 9 tives of every person, who has behaved as a person attached to the
 10 principles of the constitution of the United States, and well dis-
 11 posed to the good order and happiness of the same, and not owing
 12 or professing allegiance to any foreign power, and being above the
 13 age of seventeen years, did, on the eleventh day of June, one thou-
 14 sand eight hundred and five, when the old town of Detroit was de-
 15 stroyed by a conflagration, own or inhabit a house in the same,
 16 there shall be granted, where the government of the territory shall
 17 determine, a lot or parcel of ground, not exceeding the quantity of
 18 five thousand square feet, entirely independent of any of the claims
 19 heretofore recognized by this act.

1 Sec. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That the government of the
 2 territory of Michigan, for the time being, shall dispose of all the

3 lots and lands within a district beginning at the mouth of la rivière
4 aux Raisins, on the west end of lake Erie, and running west six
5 miles up the southern bank of the said river; thence northerly, and
6 always six miles west of the strait, till it strikes the lake St. Clair,
7 and thence through the strait along the boundary of the United
8 States to the beginning, which shall not be otherwise claimed
9 under this act; and the proceeds thereof shall be applied to the use
10 of the people and inhabitants of the said territory, in the erection
11 of public buildings, the education of youth, and the making of
12 roads and other public improvements in the said territory: Pro-
13 vided, that every act of the said government in relation hereto,
14 shall be subject to be reported and disapproved in the same manner
15 as is or may be provided with respect to other acts, and that the
16 deeds and patents thereof be made conformably to the deeds and
17 patents heretofore prescribed by this act, and that the surveys and
18 all other expenses be defrayed by the said territory.

1 Sec. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That the government of the
2 territory of Michigan, for the time being, shall have power to regu-
3 late the concerns of such persons belonging to the Wiandot tribe
4 of Indians, as may continue to reside within the limits described
5 in the preceding section of this act, and to make a grant of land
6 within the said limits, not exceeding sixty acres for each person, to
7 the said persons, or to such of them as shall manifest an attachment
8 to an agricultural life; the acts of the said government in relation
9 hereto, and the deeds, patents and surveys in pursuance hercof.

10 being subject to the provisions contained in the preceding section
11 of this act.

1 Sec. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That the claims of all per-
2 sons claiming lands or lots in the said territory, under the second
3 article of the treaty between his Britannic majesty and the United
4 States of America, concluded at London on the nineteenth day
5 of November, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four, shall
6 be heard, examined, determined and finally adjusted, in the same
7 manner as is provided by this act in relation to other claims.